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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Developing
Services Sectors: Fostering
Competitive Services Sectors in
Developing Countries: INSURANCE
Second session
Geneva, 4 July 1994
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

[INSURANCE]

# ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

## Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

## I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Review of developments in the insurance market
4. Review of progress made on the work programme
5. Consideration of specific items of the work programme:
   - (a) Review on critical areas with regard to insurance legislation, regulation and supervision (see item B.1.(a) of the work programme)
   - (b) Privatization and liberalization in insurance
   - (c) Expanding the insurance sector in agriculture and rural insurance
   - (d) Exchange of experiences on creditor insurance
   - (e) Reinsurance (see items B.1.(c) and B.2. of the work programme)
6. Provisional agenda for the third session of the Standing Committee, Insurance
7. Other business
8. Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee, Insurance, to the Trade and Development Board.

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## II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees of the Trade and Development Board, the Standing Committee shall elect a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur from among the representatives of its members, taking into account the need to ensure an equitable geographical distribution. Moreover, rule 19 of the same rules of procedure states that the Bureau of the Committee shall consist of seven members, including four members from Groups A and C combined, two members from Group B and one member from Group D, referred to in the annex to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) as amended.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Standing Committee may wish to adopt the provisional agenda, as set out in section I above. Section III and the annexes to this note contain suggestions for the organization of the work of the Committee and a list of background documents.

Item 3: Review of developments in the insurance market

Regarding developments in the insurance market, one of the areas that in recent years has been of growing concern to developing countries is the threat to their development achievements and prospects by natural catastrophes and risks associated with insufficiently controlled technological and economic progress. This problem area is increasingly also being seen in the context of speculation about possible climate change. The UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a sessional document entitled "Alternatives for insurance of catastrophes, environmental impairments and large risks in developing countries" (TD/B/CN.4/32). The document raises issues to be addressed by all countries wishing to have in place insurance and risk management programmes to cover different types of catastrophes, environmental impairments and large risks.

Two background documents entitled "Insurance in developing countries: An assessment and review of developments (1989-1993)" (UNCTAD/SDD/INS/2/Rev.1) and "Statistical survey on insurance and reinsurance operations in developing countries 1983-1990" (UNCTAD/SDD/INS/5) have also been prepared in relation to this item.

The Standing Committee may wish to take action on the basis of these reports and provide guidance for future activities.

Item 4: Review of progress made on the work programme

The UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a progress report entitled "Review of activities of the secretariat pertaining to the work programme" (TD/B/CN.4/31). This report informs the Standing Committee on issues in the work programme on which work has been carried out by the secretariat between the first and second sessions of the Standing Committee. It addresses the

main areas of the work programme: promoting transparency, fostering competitive insurance services and strengthening technical cooperation and human resources development.

The report provides a brief review of the documents presented and in some cases proposes possible follow-up. It should assist the Standing Committee in assessing the work accomplished so far. More details on reported activities and studies can be found in the respective sessional and background documents, a list of which is provided in annex II below. The Standing Committee may wish to take action on the basis of this report and provide guidance for future activities.

Item 5: Consideration of specific items of the work programme

In response to agenda item "5 (c) Expanding the insurance sector in agriculture and rural insurance", the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a sessional document entitled "Issues of agricultural insurance in developing countries" (TD/B/CN.4/30). The report addresses issues facing the introduction and expansion of agricultural and rural insurance in developing countries. For more details on specific issues the background document "Agricultural insurance in developing countries" (UNCTAD/SDD/INS/1/Rev.1) may also be consulted.

Concerning the other elements of item 5 of the provisional agenda, the progress report (TD/B/CN.4/31) gives a brief review of the activities and studies undertaken by the secretariat. A list of background documents related to items 5 (a), 5 (b) and 5 (c) is provided in annex II.

The Standing Committee may wish to take action on the basis of these reports and provide guidance for future activities.

Item 6: Provisional agenda for the third session of the Standing Committee, Insurance

In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the main Committees, the secretariat will submit during the session a draft provisional agenda for the third session of the Standing Committee, Insurance, tentatively scheduled to be convened from 29 May to 2 June 1995.

Item 7: Other business

Item 8: Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee, Insurance, to the Trade and Development Board

The report of the Standing Committee, Insurance, will be submitted to the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its forty-first session.

## III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE

Pursuant to a decision taken by the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its fortieth session, the Standing Committee's session on Insurance is scheduled for five working days, from 4 to 8 July 1994. The session will commence on Monday, 4 July at 11 o'clock. Normal meeting hours are from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Limited facilities for group meetings will be available on request.

Regarding the organization of work, it is suggested that the Committee, after the general debate, may wish to convert the plenary into an informal meeting.

A tentative schedule of meetings, drawn up on the assumption that the plenary meeting will be converted into an informal meeting, is shown in annex I. To facilitate the work of the Standing Committee, a suggestion is made under the tentative schedule of meetings to consider agenda items under a different chronological order.

Annex I

**TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Monday, 4 July 11 a.m. (Plenary) | Item 1: | Election of officers |
| | Item 2: | Adoption of the agenda and organization of work |
| | General debate | |
| Monday, 4 July 3 p.m. (Plenary followed by informals) | General debate (concluded) | |
| | Item 5: | Consideration of specific items of the work programme (Agricultural Insurance) |
| Tuesday, 5 July 10 a.m. (Informals) | Item 5: | (continued) |
| Tuesday, 5 July 3 p.m. (Informals) | Item 3: | Review of developments in the insurance market (catastrophes, environmental impairments and large risks insurance). |
| Wed., 6 July 10 a.m. (Informals) | Item 3: | (continued) |
| Wed., 6 July 3 p.m. (Informals) | Item 4: | Review of progress made on the work programme |
| Thursday, 7 July 10 a.m. (Informals) | Item 4: | (continued) |
| Thursday, 7 July 3 p.m. (Informals) | Item 4: | (continued) |
| | Item 6: | Provisional agenda for the third session of the Standing Committee, Insurance |
| Friday, 8 July (p.m.) (Plenary) | Item 6: | (concluded) |
| | Item 7: | Other business |
| | Item 8: | Adoption of the report of the Standing Committee, Insurance, to the Trade and Development Board |

Annex II

**CHECKLIST OF DOCUMENTS**

For ease of reference, sessional and background documents are listed below under their respective items.

**Sessional documents**

Item 3: Alternatives for insurance of catastrophes, environmental impairments and large risks in developing countries (TD/B/CN.4/32).

Item 4: Review of activities of the secretariat pertaining to the work programme (TD/B/CN.4/31).

Item 5: Issues of agricultural insurance in developing countries (TD/B/CN.4/30).

**Background documents**

Promoting transparency: Insurance in developing countries: An assessment and review of developments (1989-1993), (UNCTAD/SDD/INS/2/Rev.1);

Statistical survey on insurance and reinsurance operations in developing countries 1983-1990 (UNCTAD/SDD/INS/5).

Fostering competitive insurance services: Issues of insurance regulation and supervision relevant for developing countries (UNCTAD/SDD/INS/6);

Insurance in developing countries: Privatization of insurance enterprises and liberalization of insurance markets (UNCTAD/SDD/INS/3/Rev.1);

Agricultural insurance in developing countries (UNCTAD/SDD/INS/1/Rev.1);

The report of the Group of Experts on Agricultural Insurance (UNCTAD/SDD/INS/4).

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